## How did our solar system come to be?



It all began about 4.6 billion years ago in a wispy cloud of gas and dust.

At some point, part of the cloud collapsed in on itself—possibly because the shockwave of a nearby supernova explosion caused it to compress.

The result: a flat spinning disk of dust and gas.

4.6 Billion Years Ago

> Nuclear fusion occurs when hydrogen atoms fuse into

helium.



When enough material collected at this disk's center, nuclear fusion began. Our sun was born. It gobbled up 99.8% of all the material.



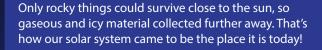
These clumps became planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and moons.

This cloud was a small part of a much bigger cloud.

The material left behind by the sun clumped together into bigger and bigger pieces.



Present





Comets and asteroids are the left over remains of the solar system's formation.

